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The weeks between now and Nov. 22 will be an ongoing media event commemorating the 25th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Included are video releases, prime-time network TV specials and syndicated and cable programming. Here's a roundup.

Videos preserving the JFK legacy

John F. Kennedy has become known as the first president of the TV era. That means he is also the first executive whose photogenic tenure is now a home video staple. Here is a sampling of the tapes dedicated to preserving his memory on the 25th anniversary of his death.

John F. Kennedy: The Commemorative Video Album (CBS/Fox, $19.98, currently in stores). Almost two hours long; thorough, yet disjointed. It seems that little effort was expended producing this program.

CBS has pulled from its vault original footage from the coverage following the assassination and leading to the burial. At that time, the network relived his presidency and life in four days of news segments. The re-edited, quarter-century-old news adds little perspective.

Typical oversight: Harry Reasoner's interview with Rose Kennedy took place before Kennedy was elected, during his administration or after his death?

Four Days in November (MGM/UA, $29.95, currently in release). David Wolper produced this 1964 film, which concentrates on the assassination. Great footage, but watching it today it seems incredibly dated. Narrator Richard Baseheart is hopelessly theatrical; the music is overly somber.

Remembering Kennedy (Vestron Video, $19.95, currently in release). ABC's 1983 special broadcast in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of JFK's death. This video does probe deeper into the lingering issues from the early '60s: civil rights, Vietnam, the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban missile crisis. A decent history lesson.

Thank You, Mr. President: The Press Conferences of JFK (Goodtimes, $9.95, currently in release). If remembering JFK means watching a young, charming president being witty and inspirational, this is the video for you. It's 45 minutes of JFK at his best — courting the press. It, too, is a vintage TV special from the 1970s, hosted by E.G. Marshall, but it holds up very well.

Life in Camelot: The Kennedy Years (HBO Video, $19.99, release date, Nov. 9). Only 15 minutes of the 55-minute tape were available for preview. As short as that was, it looks to be the best of the Kennedy videos.

Rather than a rehash of familiar footage and facts, this cassette features state-of-the-art video techniques. HBO obtained audio tapes from the JFK Library Collection in Boston and unseen family film footage from the 1950s and '60s. Using recorded remarks, the producers allow JFK to narrate this portrait himself.

Like the other videos, this stresses the positive aspects of JFK, avoiding conspiracy theories. "This is strictly an autobiography," says HBO senior vice president Henry McGee. "In his own words."

The program will premiere on HBO Sunday Nov. 6 at 10 p.m. EST/PST, then appear in video stores three days later.

By Jefferson Graham